

1997 RED RIVER VALLEY FLOOD

Red River Valley Flood Facts - May 4, 1997

The area* of the flood on May 4, 1997 was 1,950 km²

- larger than 28 countries in the world
- the 76th largest lake in the world
- larger than the Dead Sea (1,020 km²)
- larger than any lake in the United Kingdom
- would be the 5th largest lake in Europe

The West Dyke Extension (also known as the "Z" Dyke or the Brunkild Dyke) is considered an engineering marvel. More than 400 pieces of heavy equipment worked 24 hours a day for 3 days to construct approximately 25 kilometres of new dyke and reinforce another 15 km of existing dyke. This work was accomplished through the cooperation of the province's Highways and Natural Resources departments with the help of the Canadian Armed Forces, the Canadian Coast Guard and private contractors.

* Area was calculated for the surface of the Red River only as displayed in the May 4 image. As this does not cover the full extent of the flood in North Dakota, the total flooded area is larger than listed here. Area calculation includes portions of the Red in both Canada and the United States. Surface flooding not connected directly to the Red is not included.



FLOODWAY OUTLET



FLOODWAY INLET



GRANDE POINTE



ST. ADOLPHE



STE. AGATHE



ST. JEAN BAPTISTE



ROSEAU RIVER RESERVE



EMERSON



WEST DYKE

WEST DYKE EXTENSION

EXISTING

DYKE

WEST



BRUNKILD



ROSENORT



MORRIS



LETELLIER

May 4, 1997 RADARSAT Image of Red River Valley

This flood was the second largest flood event in recorded history, exceeded only by the 1826 flood. This image shows the central part of the Red River Valley and was taken on May 4, 1997 at approximately 6:00 AM by Canada's RADARSAT satellite. A radar sensor transmits a beam of microwave energy towards the earth and then collects the energy which is received back to its antenna. Radar can "see" right through clouds so images of the flood can be obtained under all weather conditions even during darkness.

This image was created by combining flood information generated from the RADARSAT image with LANDSAT imagery. It gives an extremely detailed view of the landscape, major streets in Winnipeg, the floodway, dyked communities such as Morris and Letellier, and the general patchwork of fields.

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CANADA
UNITED STATES

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Natural Resources
Hon. J. Glen Cummings
Minister



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